



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

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PLANNER'S UPDATE

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from The Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe. Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.

Leonard Bauer, AICP
Managing Director
Growth Management Services
leonard.bauer@commerce.wa.gov

To subscribe to this newsletter send e-mail to:

linda.weyl@commerce.wa.gov

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www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS UPDATE – INCLUDING NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Puget Sound Regional Council, Washington State Department of Commerce, and their transfer of development rights (TDR) partners in Central Puget Sound have made quite a bit of progress in the last several months. For more information on all of these topics, go to the Commerce Web site at www.commerce.wa.gov/tdr.

- **Regional TDR Alliance:** Partners to the EPA West Coast Estuaries grant that is funding the program – Puget Sound Regional Council, Department of Commerce, Pierce County, King County, Snohomish County, and the Cascade Land Conservancy – are known as the Regional TDR Alliance.
- **TDR Project Grants for Cities:** \$1 million from EPA's Puget Sound Watershed Management Assistance fund will be available to incorporated cities and towns in King, Pierce, Kitsap, and Snohomish Counties for TDR

planning and infrastructure in receiving areas. The application packet is posted on the Web site. Applications are due to the Department of Commerce on August 10, 2010, 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time. For more information, contact Heather Ballash at heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov.

- **TDR Workshops for Cities:** The TDR Alliance hosted a series of workshops for cities in the four central Puget Sound counties where the participants learned about grants to central Puget Sound cities for TDR planning and infrastructure in receiving areas; materials and direct technical assistance to develop TDR policies and regulations; and outreach materials for citizens, landowners and developers. Workshop presentations are posted on the Commerce Web site.
- **New resources on Commerce Web site:** Commerce has updated the TDR Web site with new resources for cities, counties, developers and landowners. These include examples of TDR policies, regulations, certificates, conservation easements, etc. Check out the new TDR Alliance brochure with inserts for cities, developers, and landowners, as well as the Transfer of Development Rights in Your Neighborhood: A Citizen's Guide to TDR Receiving Areas.
- **Interlocal Terms and Conditions Rule:** Commerce filed the draft Interlocal Terms and Conditions rule for formal public comment on June 2, 2010. The draft rule can be downloaded from the Commerce Web site. A hearing to take public testimony was held on July 14, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Puget Sound Regional Council. Written comments are due by July 22, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Submit comments to Heather Ballash at heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov. The 2009 legislation directed Commerce to adopt a rule to facilitate transactions between buyers and sellers of TDRs. Proposed Chapter 365-198 WAC will provide an alternative to an interlocal agreement to cities and counties participating in the regional TDR program for Central Puget Sound. The rule would provide terms and conditions that they may adopt by reference in lieu of an interlocal agreement to transfer development rights. The rule is intended to facilitate participation by cities and counties in the TDR program. The rule will be strictly voluntary.

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2. LEED FOR NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The country's first comprehensive system for defining, measuring, and certifying smart growth has opened for business. The three founding partners of LEED-ND —NRDC, the Congress for the New Urbanism, and the U.S. Green Building Council recently joined with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Smart Growth America to announce the national launch of the program.

LEED-ND is a major step forward in defining the kind of development that reduces global warming emissions, land consumption, traffic, resource waste and pollution while enhancing livability. The system is built around three major categories of standards: regional location and linkages, neighborhood pattern and design, and green infrastructure and buildings.

To see an overview of LEED-ND, go to: <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID+148>. You can also download the system's standards there.

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3. HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced the availability of approximately \$100 million for Sustainable Community Regional Planning Grants. The grants will support metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the

interdependent challenges of: (1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact.

Specific questions regarding the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program requirements should be directed to: sustainablecommunities@hud.gov or may be submitted through the www.hud.gov/sustainability website. Written questions may also be submitted to the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 10180, Washington, DC 20410. For more information, see <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa10/scrpg.cfm>

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